



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 22, 2009
Contact: Matthew Hessler, CFMP
Title: Director of Marketing
Phone: (559) 782-4900 or (888) 454-BANK
NASDAQ Symbol: BSRR
Website Address: www.bankofthesierra.com

**\$2,000 Sierra Grant Awarded to
Lindsay Community Theater**

Porterville, CA — Bank of the Sierra is pleased to award a \$2,000 Sierra Grant to the Lindsay Community Theater. The 80 year old theater is currently used for community plays, concerts, events and school theater projects. The funding will help replace the front doors so that security will be increased and energy costs will be reduced. This will allow the venue to be open more often in hot and cold weather.

“At Bank of the Sierra, we are happy to support the heritage of our communities through the Sierra Grant Program,” stated James C. Holly, President and CEO of Bank of the Sierra.

About The Sierra Grant Program

The Sierra Grant Program is designed to improve the quality of life for the families, especially the children, who reflect the diversity within Bank of the Sierra branch communities. The Sierra Grant Program is focused on three areas: community services, park preservation, and education. Anyone involved in a non-profit program that is interested in a Sierra Grant can pick up an instructional brochure at any Bank of the Sierra branch.

About Bank of the Sierra

With over \$1.3 billion in assets and strong performance ratios, Bank of the Sierra is the largest independently owned community bank headquartered in Southern San Joaquin Valley’s Heartland. The bank serves 15 different communities with 23 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

#####